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Pure Sociology: A Treatise concerning the Origin and Spontaneous Development of Society. By LESTER F. WARD. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1903. 8vo, pp. xii+606.

OF the value of this great treatise for the general science of sociology it is not the place of an economic journal to speak. Nor may one who is not himself a lifelong specialist in the science presume to pass an opinion of praise or dispraise on the culminating work of a man to whom the science owes so extraordinary a debt as to Dr. Ward. But even a lay reader may see and say this much, that *Pure Sociology* is a captivating volume by reason of lucid and forcible presentation as well as by its great range and command of information and its engaging style. It is a work of theory, presents a system wrought out symmetrically and in detail, with the maturity and poise of half-a-century's unrelenting work and with the fire of unfailing youth.

Dr. Ward succeeds in what others have attempted. He has brought the aims and method of modern science effectively into sociological inquiry. This method is the genetic one, which deals with the forces and sequence of development and seeks to understand the outcome by finding out how and why it has come about. The aim is to organize social phenomena into a theoretical structure in causal terms. The resulting system is too comprehensive, with too many ramifications, to admit of anything like an abstract or a general survey being presented in a brief space.

What is of direct interest to economic students is found, chiefly, in chap. xiii, on "Autogenetic Forces," chaps. xvi and xvii, on "The Directive Agent" and "Biologic Origin of the Objective Faculties," and in chaps. xix, and xx, on "The Conquest of Nature" and "The Socialization of Achievement." It is only scattered sections and paragraphs, of these chapters that are of direct interest to economic theory, the main line of the argument, of course, bearing throughout on general sociological theory of which Dr. Ward's economic views are only a ramification. The chapter on the autogenetic forces deals with the human agent in the process of production, and very suggestively discusses the place and method of intelligence in industry. Broad and general as this discussion is, it contrasts in an illuminating way with the itemized and mechanical schematism that commonly does duty as a psychology of industry in the received doctrines, or even in such a special treatise as Tarde's *Psychologie économique*. In chap. xvii, the sections on "Indirection" offer a bold analysis of the motives and methods of business traffic, of which the dominant note is given in the

proposition (p. 487) that "deception may almost be called the foundation of business." For economic purposes, Dr. Ward's views on the "Socialization of Achievement" (chap. xx) converge to the outcome that the trend of cultural growth sets indefeasibly toward collectivism, toward which he finds, on an analysis of the available data, that the most advanced of the industrial peoples have made the most substantial approaches. V.

Bevölkerungsbewegung, Kapitalbildung und periodische Wirtschaftskrisen. By LUDWIG POHLE. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1902. 8vo, pp. 92.

THE objective point of this pamphlet is a theory of crises, or more precisely of depression, with a particular view to the bearing of depression on the fortunes of the working classes. Dr. Pohle does not consistently distinguish between crisis and depression, and for the most part "crisis" in his usage means depression. As the wording of the title indicates, the causes of depression are sought in the movement of population and in the accumulation of capital. The movement of population here means, practically, the natural increase of the working classes. This is the ultimate efficient factor to which depression is traceable. But it is through its relation to the accumulation of capital that this factor brings on the depression.

The cause of the change from exaltation to depression I find in this, that the savings of the nation are no longer adequate to pay for the newly produced capital goods It is, in short, the excessive demand for capital for use in industry which first brings this period of exaltation to a pause and finally changes it to a period of depression (p. 79, note 32).

The periodicity of crises and depressions is traceable to psychological grounds, to the cumulative change of animus in the undertaking class; that is to say, these phenomena are essentially of a speculative nature. But the ulterior causes of this disturbance are of a material kind. The growth of the working-class population diverts the values produced from accumulation in the way of capitalizable savings to current consumption, resulting in a discrepancy between the accumulated funds and the productive goods on hand. The accumulated funds not being adequate to pay for the industrial equipment necessary to afford the requisite current output, capitalization comes to a standstill, there is an appearance of overproduction of productive goods, with a consequent decline in their value; the industrial equipment in hand is therefore insufficient to give remunerative employment to the